



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney David R. Dugas  
Middle District of Louisiana

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## **SENTENCING IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA, ON FEDERAL FEMA FRAUD CHARGES**

BATON ROUGE, LA – United States Attorney David R. Dugas announced that DE'ONDRA PROFIT, age 34, of Baton Rouge was sentenced on July 27, 2006, by U.S. District Court Judge James J. Brady to five years probation, a fine of \$2,000, and \$4,000 in restitution. PROFIT was charged in an indictment on January 20, 2006, with illegal conversion of government property, that is, two checks from FEMA for expedited disaster assistance.

The U.S. Secret Service; the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General; the Social Security Administration, Office of Inspector General; and the East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's office conducted the investigation of this matter.

The number of individuals who have been charged in the Middle District of Louisiana with violations related to Hurricane Katrina relief funds stands at sixty-four.

In September 2005, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created the Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, designed to deter, investigate and prosecute disaster-related federal crimes such as charity fraud, identity theft, procurement fraud and insurance fraud. The Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force – chaired by Assistant Attorney General Alice S. Fisher of the Criminal Division – includes members from the FBI, the Federal Trade Commission, the Postal Inspector's Office, and the Executive Office for United States Attorneys, among others.

For further information, contact David R. Dugas, U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Louisiana, or Lyman Thornton, First Assistant U.S. Attorney, at (225) 389-0443. Anyone suspecting criminal activity involving disaster assistance programs can make an anonymous report by calling the toll-free Hurricane Relief Fraud Hotline, 1-866-720-5721, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, until further notice. Information can also be emailed to the Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force at [HKFTF@leo.gov](mailto:HKFTF@leo.gov) or sent by surface mail, with as many details as possible, to Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4909.

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